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WALYUNGA SURVEY HERITAGE TRAIL

RECOGNISING THE PIONEERING ACHIEVEMENTS OF 19TH CENTURY SURVEYOR/EXPLORER LORD JOHN FORREST

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John Forrest was born near Bunbury in 1847 and educated both there and at Bishop Hale's School at the Cloisters in Perth. At age 16 he was articled to Surveyor Tom Carey and at age 18 began his career as a Government Surveyor and Explorer. Forrest surveyed roads and land grants in the growing colony until 1869 when he was placed in charge of an expedition to search for the long lost Leichardt expedition. His expertise, knowledge and understanding of bush craft and aborigines made him a natural choice to lead two further expeditions across inland WA – in 1870 and 1874. After this he led a surveying team to complete extensive Triangulation surveys in the Murchison (1876), Swan and Avon Valley (1877-78), Pilbara (1878).

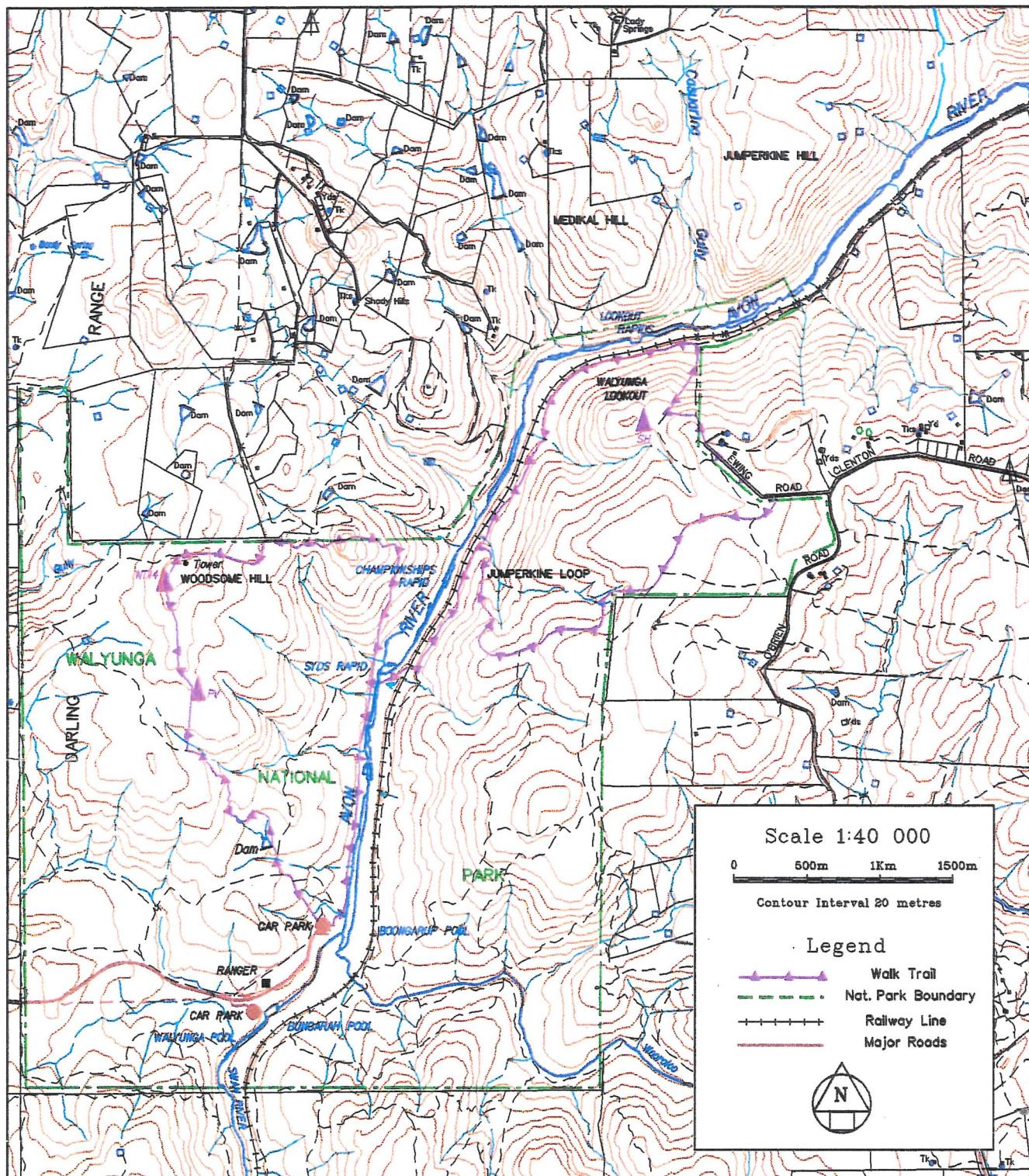
At the age of 36 he was appointed Surveyor General (1883) and soon became interested in the political system of the day. Forrest later held the office of Premier and Treasurer of WA (10 years), and became Treasurer of the new Federation of Australian states after 1901 in five federal cabinets. His many other achievements and life history are fully documented in "Forrest 1847-1918" Volume 1 by F.K. Crowley.

This trail acknowledges Forrest's efforts to complete the 1877-78 survey by showing you the difficult terrain which had to be overcome and the rock cairns he placed at sites PV, SH as part of the survey.



Original cairn and pole; Avon Valley Triangulation survey 1878.

WALYUNGA SURVEY HERITAGE TRAIL



Important information

1. As you are within the boundaries of the Walyunga National Park, CALM regulations apply. See the excellent brochures available at the Ranger's office for details.
2. Access to this trail is seasonal. Due to temperature extremes and lack of drinking water it is recommended that this trail NOT be attempted in hot weather during the months of December to March.
3. Difficult sections - good walking shoes and protective clothing are recommended as is insect repellent as there are some annoying insects, testing rocks and prickly undergrowth areas.
4. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE RIVER IF IT IS FLOWING STRONGLY!**
5. The east trail incorporates a steep descent from the Walyunga lookout area to the valley floor. This section may be avoided by back tracking along the CALM firebreak sections of the trail.
6. The old rock cairns are fragile. PLEASE DO NOT CLIMB ON THEM as they are important historical sites.
7. Exercise EXTREME CAUTION near the railway - walk well away from the lines and cross quickly where marked.